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# Salleh accuses Dr M of hypocrisy

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**'MALAYSIAN MAVERICK':** Former PM did not sue ex-WSJ editor who claimed he wasted RM100 billion

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**C**OMMUNICATIONS and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak has raised the question of why Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad did not sue a former *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) editor who claimed that the former prime minister had squandered vast sums of money during his rule.

"According to ex-WSJ editor Barry Wain, Dr Mahathir had squandered

an estimated RM100 billion during his 22-year rule."

Writing in his blog sskeruak.blogspot.com, Salleh said the amount, say in 1990, would be equivalent to RM225 billion today.

In the book, *Malaysian Maverick: Mahathir Mohamad in Turbulent Times*, Salleh said Wain wrote that when Dr Mahathir took office in 1981, his administration was almost immediately embroiled in scandals that "exploded with startling regularity". This despite the administration's slogan of "clean, efficient, trustworthy".

Salleh noted that, according to Wain, by the early 1990s, cynics had remarked that it had been "a good decade for bad behaviour, or a bad

decade for good behaviour".

"Dr Mahathir never sued Wain so the allegations remain. And because Dr Mahathir did not sue Wain, does this mean the allegations were true?"

The minister drew parallels between Dr Mahathir's situation and the one faced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, against whom WSJ has made allegations.

Salleh said the argument was that if the allegations were not true, Najib should sue WSJ, and that if the prime minister refused to sue, then that could only mean the allegations were true and Najib was, therefore, guilty.

"If Najib refuses to sue the WSJ, Dr Mahathir says that can only mean the allegations are true," he said, which appears to be hypocrisy on Dr Mahathir's part. **Bernama**



**Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak**